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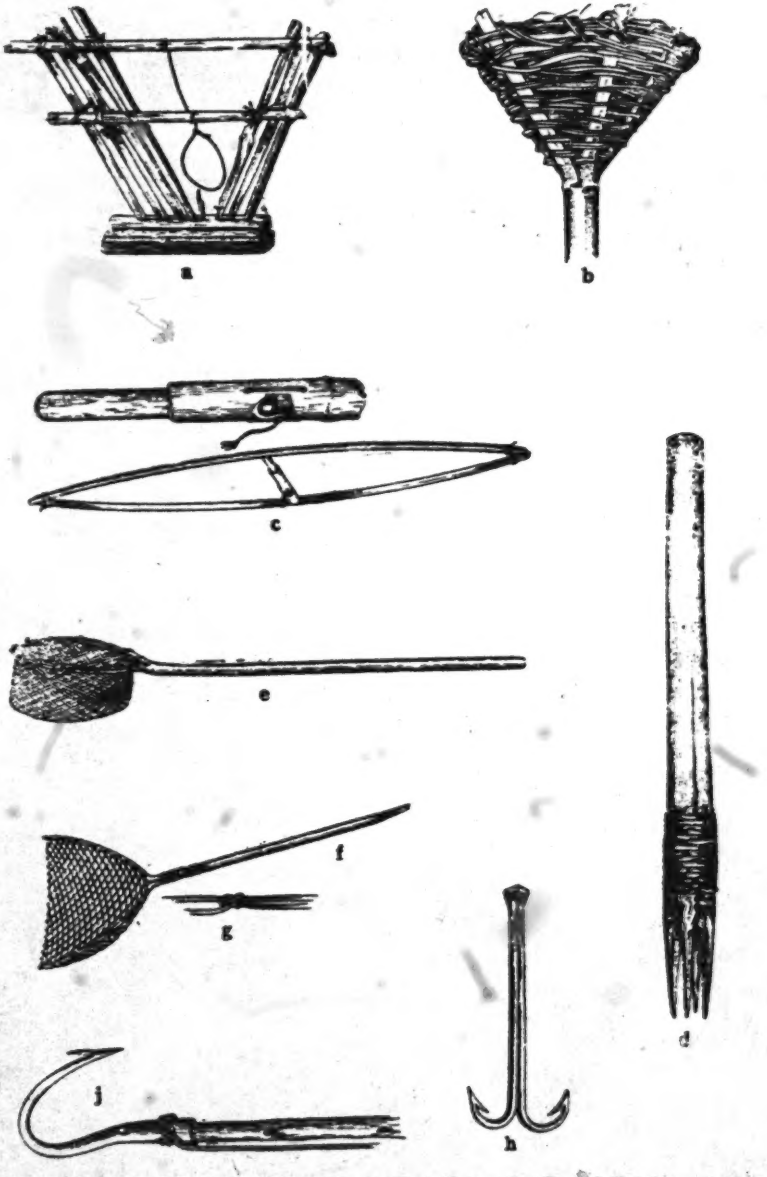

FIG. 2. Hunting and Fishing. a, Lemur Trap; b, Hen's Nest; c, Rat Trap; d, Fish Spear, Ancient Type; e, Basket Dip Net; f, Dip Net; g, Netting Knot; h, j, Eel Hooks.

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223 of split bamboo which may have either a slide door released by a trigger or a conical entrance of grass, shaped like the entrance of a fish trap. When the bird enters the grass falls together and conceals the opening. Small birds are caught with snares made from the long hairs of a cow's tail or, rarely, human hair. These snares are set, several together, around a nest or on the ground near the village rice mortars, where the birds come to pick up the grain. Birds are also caught with bird lime, which is smeared on slender twigs or splints of bamboo and placed in trees where they congregate. There are several varieties of lime. The commonest is made from the sap [314] of a creeper called *tandrakosy*. This is chewed as it begins to solidify and is then ready for use. Another variety is made from the juice of the *samata* vine. This is kneaded into a cold, boiled sweet potato until the two are thoroughly mixed. The mixture is kneaded and washed in running water until the soluble portion has been removed. It is then ready for use. The best lime of all is made from the sap of the *samata* tree (not the vine mentioned above). The sap is collected in bamboo cups which are attached to the trunk of the tree below cuts, as in collecting rubber. The full cup is then put in an open fire and left until the bamboo has burned away. The viscid mass remaining is thoroughly washed and is then ready for use. This lime is very strong and will not dry for a long time. Twigs which had been smeared with it remained sticky for four months.

FISHING

226 Fishing is somewhat more important than hunting in the native economy, but there are no professional fishermen. Large fish are speared either in daylight or at night, with torches. Two types of spear are employed, a double-pointed, double-barbed iron spear called *fitreka* and an unbarbed wooden spear with four points. This is made by splitting the end of a hardwood pole, inserting wedges to hold the points apart, and lashing the base of the head with split vines (Fig. 2, d). The wooden spears are now almost obsolete but are said to have been used by the aborigines of the Tanala country. Eels are caught with a large iron hook, either single or double (Fig. 2, h, j), attached to the end of a pole from 2 to 4 feet long. The hook has a single barb and usually a socket into which the head of the shaft fits loosely. A long cord is attached to the base of the hook by lashings. Eels sometimes grow as much as 8 feet long and when a large animal is struck the hook detaches itself from the pole and the eel is played with the cord until the fish becomes exhausted.

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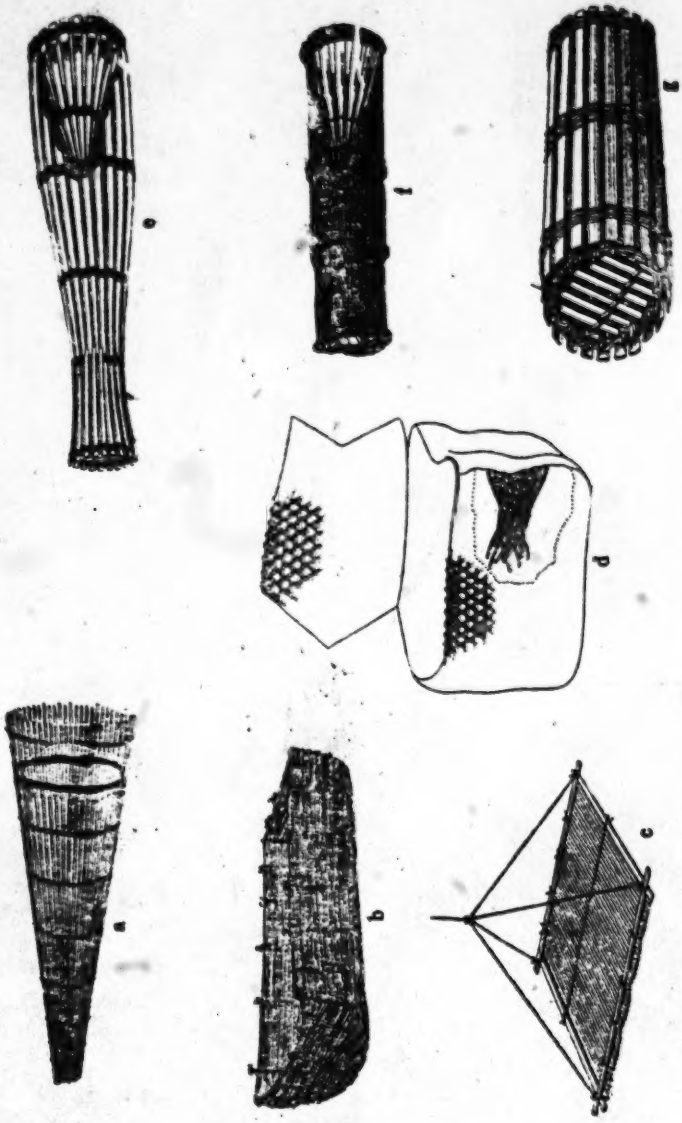

FIG. 8. Fish Traps. a, b, Fish Scoops; c, Fish Drying Frame; d, e, Bamboo Fish Traps; f, Bark Fish Trap; g, Eel Cage.

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• 226 [462] The spear and eel hook are employed only by men but both sexes fish with the hook and line, using long flexible bamboo poles. The ancient Tanala fish hook was made of iron with a single barb. It had a flattened shank with a groove around it for the attachment of the line. At the present time trade hooks have entirely replaced the native article. The lines are made from twisted raffia or bark fiber. Set lines are used for eels. The neighboring coast tribes employ double-pointed bone gorges with these lines, in place of hooks, but the Tanala claim that they have never used gorges. The Tanala Ikongo make a considerable use of nets, employing both dip nets and seines. The dip nets, *fisoroka*, are made in the form of a pocket, the sides being threaded over the arms of a forked stick. When a suitable fork cannot be found, the frame is made by splicing on a second stick (Fig. 2, f). The ends of the fork are connected by a heavy cord, so that the opening of the net is triangular. The seines, *harato*, are often quite large. The floats are made from pieces of light wood, apparently a species of hibiscus, and the weights from stones. The net material is the bark of various trees, *lelahena*, *ariary*, *haro-fotsy*, etc., and two bushes, *tsipiaka* and *manasa*. The netting knot is shown in the accompanying sketch (Fig. 2, g). The Tanala Menabe say that they have had no nets until recent times and even now do not employ seines. Their dip nets are of two types, one like the Ikongo net already described, the other a sort of openwork basket woven from split vines. In the latter the ends of the forks are brought around and lashed together to form the rim of the weaving (Fig. 2, e). The dip nets are used for catching small fish in shallow water.

Two types of fish scoop (Fig. 3, a, b), are used by women for collecting small fish, larvae, etc. One of these is in the form of a half cylinder while the other is conical (see Matting and Basketry). There are also three types of fish trap: a cylindrical trap made from a roll of bark with a conical opening of bamboo splints (Fig. 3, f); a bottle-shaped trap made from split bamboo, with an entrance similar to that of the bark trap (Fig. 3, e); and a large, heart-shaped trap woven from split vines (Fig. 3, d) (see Matting and Basketry). The first two are used primarily for eels, the third for other fish. The traps are baited with cooked maize or manioc or with frogs, and left over night. Eels are often kept alive in cylindrical bamboo cages (Fig. 3, g).

Fish poisoning seems to be peculiar to the Tanala. I found no trace of it among either the plateau or coast tribes. The roots of the *rantomboka* tree are taken to the river and beaten on stones,

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the juice being allowed to float downstream with the current. The 226
fish rise to the surface stupefied or dead and are taken by hand. A large quantity of roots is required and the whole lineage or even village usually takes part. At the present time the method is rarely used, because of the labor involved.

The natives are very fond of two sorts of crayfish. One of these has short legs and large claws, like a lobster, while the other has long legs and no claws. Parties often go several miles from the village to catch crayfish in the small, swift mountain streams, staying out all night. The animals are usually caught by the light of torches, which stupefies them so that they can be picked up. In the daytime they are lured from their holes by means of a white or glittering object on the end of a stick. A bit of tin from a can is now used. They are then caught by hand or between two bits of wood, to avoid their claws.

Eels and other fish are preserved by smoking, without salt. They 251
are not cleaned. The smoking is done on small platforms of open-work bamboo which are hung over the fireplace in the dwelling (Fig. 3, c). In spite of the crudity of the method, fish preserved in this way can be kept for a year or more and, when cooked in native fashion, are hardly inferior to the fresh article. Fish are nearly [252]
always boiled.

HONEY AND BEESWAX

Honey and beeswax are of great importance to all the Tanala. 231
The latter is one of their main exports. The native bees are rather [431]
small and dark brown or black. Most of the swarms live in hollow trees or among the rocks, but the Tanala make hives, put them near old swarms, and wash them inside with honey in the hope that new swarms will settle in them. Such swarms belong to the maker of [422]
the hive, while wild swarms belong to the finder.

The hives are made from hollowed-out logs with loosely fitting, inset ends. The cracks around the ends are large enough to allow the insects to enter. The hives are usually 3 to 5 feet long and about 1 foot in diameter. They are laid horizontally in the forks of trees, often as much as twenty feet from the ground. This is to protect the swarm from animals.

To obtain the honey and wax, the swarm is first stupefied with 222.
smoke from torches. The end of the hive is then pried out and all the comb removed at once, destroying the colony. A large wooden bowl of special form is used for collecting the honey (Fig. 4, e). The

285 352 along the sides by means of draw strings threaded through the binding. Small separate squares of matting are inserted under the edges of the hand, forming the ends of the stool. When first made, these stools are nearly spherical (Fig. 13, b).

[53] Pouches and stools are sometimes decorated with simple woven designs like those used on mats, but the bulk of Tanala basketry is devoid of ornament and rather coarsely woven.

285 [324] Baskets of wicker work and open weave are made exclusively by men. The material is a tough, flexible vine called *ralp*. This is split and flattened. Wicker work baskets are extremely rare, only one specimen being collected. This is a small, cylindrical, covered basket identical with those manufactured by some of the southeast coast tribes and was probably made in imitation of these (Fig. 12, d). The members run vertically and horizontally.

[224] Wicker work technique is regularly employed for one type of fish scoop. This has the form of a half cylinder, the rigid vertical elements of the wicker work running crosswise. The flat ends of the scoop are formed by bending the longitudinal splints inward and fastening them together with rough twined work in bark (Fig. 3, b). Wicker work technique is also used for house doors, the material being split bamboo, and for small open frames used for smoking fish.

In the technique which I have called open weave, the foundation consists of two series of parallel, diagonal members intersecting at regular intervals. Horizontal members are woven over and under these immediately above each intersection (Fig. 13, c). The finished fabric has large six-sided meshes. This technique is employed for deep, narrow, oblong baskets, one of which is to be found in nearly every household (Fig. 13, f). It is hung up beside the fireplace and utensils are dropped into it after washing, the open meshes allowing them to drain and dry quickly. Because of their stiffness, such baskets are also used for storing eggs and other breakables. The same technique is used for the close-fitting, semi-rigid network woven about gourds used for storing grease (Fig. 13, e), and in the manufacture of a large heart-shaped type of fish trap (Fig. 3, d).

[171] It seems to be almost universal in Indonesia and may have been brought to Madagascar from that region.

285 226 Twined work is employed in the manufacture of fish traps, eel cages, fish scoops and hanging platforms, but never for real baskets. The traps are conical or bottle shaped and the cages cylindrical. They are made from closely spaced, lengthwise strips of bamboo, about ¼ inch wide. At intervals of 5 to 8 inches these strips are

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fastened together by bands of twined work, usually three rows wide. The twining material is unsplit *rohy* vine. The traps have a conical entrance way, made from pointed slips of bamboo. On one side there is an aperture opened and closed by sliding slips of bamboo into the first row of twining (Fig. 3, e, g).

The fish scoops are conical, 2 to 3 feet across the mouth and 3 to 5 feet long. They are made from long, slender, somewhat flexible splints taken from the midrib of the raffia palm. At intervals of 3 or 4 inches these are fastened together by single rows of twined raffia fiber running at right angles to their length. The mouth of the scoop is held open by a hoop of roughly plaited vines. When not in use, this hoop is removed and the scoop rolled up laterally (Fig. 3, a).

The hanging platforms are made with the same materials and technique as the scoops just described. They are rectangular, reinforced with splints of bamboo at the edge, and are used in household sacrifices and for smoking fish (Fig. 3, c).

The Tanala also make a few trays or baskets from sections of large pandanus leaves. The heavy midrib is pared thin and the ends and sides of the section bent upward. The ends are then folded and sewn together (Fig. 6, g). Small baskets of this type are sometimes made of the sheaths of the giant bamboo, which are similarly folded and sewn.

There seems to be little or no use of bark containers. Fish traps are sometimes made from rolls of bark held in position by bands of twisted vine (Fig. 3, f).

MANUFACTURE OF BARK CLOTH

The Tanala Menabe claim that in the earliest times their clothing was made exclusively of beaten bark, called *fanto*. They have now learned how to weave and with this and the introduction of European cloth *fanto* has become obsolete. I never saw it in use, but specimens were made for me by a few of the older men, who still remember the process.

Fanto is made from the bark of the *voara* tree. When a wide piece is desired, trees up to a foot in diameter are used. The hard outer bark is scraped away on the tree until the soft inner bark is exposed. This is then detached by ringing the tree above and below and making a single vertical cut. The bark is laid in the sun until nearly dry, then beaten. The beater (*odistaxa*) is shaped like a European mallet, with a head of hard wood and an inserted handle